



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REP. BARNES STATEMENT ON WALKER'S DOC SECRETARY RESIGNATION

MADISON – Today, Rep. Mandela Barnes (D – Milwaukee) – ranking Democratic member on the Assembly Corrections Committee – released the following statement regarding the resignation of Ed Wall – Governor Walker's Department of Corrections (DOC) Secretary – in light of a prolonged cover-up of alleged abuses, potential criminal behavior, and systemic mismanagement at the state-operated Lincoln Hills School for Boys and Copper Lake School for Girls facility:

"For far too long, the safety and security of youth, staff, and other individuals in facilities like Lincoln Hills have been jeopardized by the mismanagement of Gov. Walker and policies of his GOP counterparts in the state legislature. Specifically, Walker has known about the serious allegations at Lincoln Hills for four whole years, and his blatant disregard of concerns at the facility actively put our youth and staff in harm's way.

"Governor Walker is clearly trying to pass the buck with his top aide's resignation, and his scapegoating does nothing to change the fact that he and his staff ignored dire red flags at Lincoln Hills for more than four years.

"In his resignation letter, Mr. Wall notes how he believes 'the time has come to turn the page for the Department of Corrections.' Indeed, the time has come – it is time for Governor Walker to own up to his failures, apologize for the harm he caused our youth and families, and provide real solutions to the long-standing problems within our corrections system."

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